Extracts from the journal of joseph W. Musser:

1899

Sunday Sept 24: was released from teacher of theo. class in Forest Dale Morten being appointed in my stead. Organized M.I.A. in Hunter, putting Jas C. Bertosh in as Prest.

(Nov. 30. Temple Blessing - see page 104)

Sunday Oct. 14: Attended South Jordan M.I.AS. acoompanied nby Harry W. Matthews.

Page 104 (first entry is for Tuesday March 3rd, 1900)
Thursday Nov. 30th, 1899

Through the kindness of Prest. Lorenzo Snow and Bp. James Jensen, myself and wife were premitted to receive glorious blessings in the Temple; We took advantage of this day for same.

Monday Jan. 1st, 1900

Upon invitation of J. M. Cannon, my wife and I received Patriarchal blessings at Bro. Cannon's house, under hands of Patriarch John Samith. Our blessings were exceptionally grand.

May 24, 1900 (Thrusday)

Last Omonday, while at the Prest. Office, Angus M. Cannon was talking to the Brethren (George Q. Cannon and Jos. F. Smith). He was asking what they knew regarding the "witch" (woman) of Endor. He stated that while in Conneticutt, he was preaching among some spiritualists, and the question of the woman of Enodor's (concerning) the appearing of the Prophet Sammuel to Saul was presented to him in refutation of some statement he had made. He was unable to meet the thrust, and later while at New York, he met Prest. John Taylor and asked who the woman of Endor was. Prest. Taylor replied that the Prophet Josph Smith had tuaght him that she was a prophetess of God and that she was in hiding on account of the decree of death having gone out against such as she, whom people claimed to be witches.

Later, Bro. Cannon while in converstaion with Apostle Parley P. Pratt, incidentally referred to this statement made by Prest. Taylor of the woman of Endor" and brother Pratt said yes, she was the wife of the Prophet Samuel, and was a Prophetess of God.

May 30, 1901 - At night had a splendid talk with Rose on the subject of Plural Marriage. She is fully converted to the principle and says she believes we will have to practice it before long. She is trying to prepar herself for the principle.

July 8, 1901 - At Forest Dale M.I.A. some of the sisters from the general board were down, and I am told that sister Freeze spoke with great power on the principle of Plural Marriage, its benefits to the race, and the importance of believing the doctrine. Those whom I talked about it, felt to sustain all she said.

November 11, 1901 - Before setting the new Presidents [of Seventy] apart , the were asked several questions, and they pledged themselves to observe the Word of Wisdom, pay honest tithing, sustain the Authorities, be example in all things, and accept all the principles of theGospel, the Principle of Plural marriage being expressly mentioned, and we were pledged to believ it and defend it at all times.

November 17, 1901 (Sunday) - In the evening M.I. meeting was held a very interesting session. Apostle Clawson was the main speaker. Spoke of the sacredness and necessity of marriage vows and the celestial laws. PRest. Frank Y. Taylor, bore an exceedingly strong testimony of the sacredn sacredness of Plural Marriage, and in very feeling terms admonished the young people not to cease to defend the principles and never to speak slightengly of it.

Upon returning home from the meeting, my wife and I, - Rose volunterred the information that she was prepared to accept the principle of plural marriage, and suggested a young lady as one very well adapted for that dondition of life, and requested if consistent with my feelings, I lay my plans accordingly.

FOr this testimony given to my wife, I am truly grateful to the Lord, and it shall be my desire through life, weather living in that principle or not, to live worthy of receiving to myself wives and children according to the will of God.

Monday 16th, DECEMBER 1901 - Attended M.I. officers meeting at Mil Creek Ward. After meeting accompanied Bros. Winder and Moss to Bro. Hills where we adminitered to Guy Hill, who was very sick in bed. The gift of heling wa sin the house and Guy felt better immediately after the administration.

Tuesday 17, DECEMBER 1901 - Attended M.I. at Murry ward accompanied by Mammie Hill.

Wednesday 8, 1902 (January) - Visaited Guy Hill with Bro. Winder and admini stered to him.

January 12, 1902 - Visited Maime Hill with wife and baby, and had very pleasant time . Filled an appointment to Sugar M.I.A. with Maimie Hiull.

Feb. 8, 1902 - Apostle Teasdale arose to speak briefly, and was led to speak on the principle of patriarchal and plural marriage. He stated no patriarch in the Church could be such unless he believed this principle. Scoffed the idea that JEsus Crhsit was not a marriaed man and taught that he was not only married, but had more than one wife. He had all the experience that we are supposed to get. Said that only wicked people opposed the principle.

Feb 16, 1902 - At the M.I. meeting in the evening, I bore my testimony, andafter meeting, Apostle Woodruff called me to one side and stated that during the afternoon meeting, he had received an inspiration that I should some day preside over a Stake of Zion. He told me to say nothing about it. But prepare my life accordingly.

March 14, 1902 - Returned to Heber in evening accompanied by Miss Nellie Shipp, who is visiting her sister Ellis here.

May 9th, 1902- REceived word through mail of death of Guy Hill on the 8th. He was one of my dearest freinds and was prepared to die. Guy was good, ppure and thoroughly a Latter-day Saint. He sustained the principle of plural marriage in his desires,his prayers and his assistance to others.

[May 4, 1902 - Attended afternoon meeting with wife...]

May 24, 1902 - AFter this meeting, with my wife, I asttended social at Sister Ellis R. Shipp's and was well entertained.

Modaday May 26, 1902 - Attended 70 meeting. PRest. Smart and Bro. Jensen were visitors. In bearing my testimony, I spoke of plura lmarriage as being an essential principle of theGospel and the brethren should not only believe in it, but pray for its return and prpare themselves to live it.

Bro. Jensen and Tomlinson sustained my tesimony and PRest. Smart endorse same. Said just as sure as the law of an temporal salvation must be receiv and practiced - (United order), just so sure must the law of our virtuous Salvation (Plural Marriage) be lived. They both will be returned to us. The Savior will not come until these laws are bine lived up to.

June 9, 1902 ... Myself and wife gave some instructions...

September 17, 1902 - PRest. Smart presided over the meeting. We came fasting and the occasion was a session/one serious one. He spoike at length about the possibilities in the Patriarchal form of Marriage, going from that to the princple of the United order.

Oct. 16, 1902 - With PRest. Smart part of day. In afternoon, after doing some shopping for
Rose, I fvisited Bro Hormer Duncan in 11th ward, and he and wife invited me to be sealed to their daughter May, who died a short time since. May was a sweet girl and I feel very grateful for the privilege of having her sealed to me, but of course, I accept the trust on condition it is agreeable to her, otherwise, I expect her desires to prevail in eternity.

October 7,1903 - Visited Ellis R. Shipp who was quite sick with typhoid feber and administered to her.

November 13, 1903 Went to Salt Lake to inspect some goods I ordered some ti e ago. They arrived on the morning train. [MARY pencilled diagonally through this entry - appears to be JWM handwriting.]

Paril 6, 1904 - [notes JFS Manifesto.]

May 19, 1906 - Spent day assisting in BYU excursion. An excursion also came up from Salt lake, representing District School Teachers there. Among friends who came up were Mother Borggmist, Ellis Shipp, Emily Higgs, and the cousisns...

August 1, 1906 - Accompanied by Misds Ellis R. Shipp who was with the fishing party...

August 4, 1906 - Spent day at home visiting. MIss Shipp made a homestead filing near mouth of Rock Creek.

September 2, 1906 - I was set apart by Apostle Rudger Clawson, assisted by Wm H. and Theo Smart, as a HIgh Counselor.

September 20, 1906... My friend MIss (Mae) went to New York to attend school [Penciled in "Ellis R. Shipp"]

October 15, 1906 - Bore testimony to principle of Plural Marriage; also to PRes. Smith's position in "unlawful Cohabitation."